

Message

From: Maya van Rossum [Keepermaya@delawariverkeeper.org]
Sent: 1/8/2019 4:54:16 PM
To: Servidio, Cosmo [Servidio.Cosmo@epa.gov]
CC: Fields, Jenifer [fields.jenifer@epa.gov]
Subject: Bishop Tube - request for assistance

Dear Regional Administrator Servidio and Chief of Staff Fields,

The 13.7 acre Bishop Tube site located in East Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA, is heavily contaminated with chlorinated solvents, acids and heavy metals. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has been neglectful in securing clean-up of this site despite there being known responsible parties, high levels of contamination and multiple legal tools to advance clean up, as well as ongoing threats and harms to the environment and impacted communities that must be addressed. In addition, there is a proposal for significant residential development of the site. The proposed development, including over 90 new homes, would damage the creek and wetlands, and only partially address contamination at the site. Saturated soils and groundwater would remain highly contaminated. Contamination would continue to affect the surrounding environment and community, including ongoing discharges of contaminated groundwater to Little Valley Creek, an exceptional value stream. It is unknown what impact this development proposal would have on securing ultimate remediation of the toxic contamination at the site, but it is clear that development is being proposed in advance of knowing what remediation (how, when or where) will in fact take place and what could be the ongoing implications for communities and our environment.

Rather than destroy the natural beauty of the Bishop Tube site for a massive, oversized, development, the community wants the site contamination fully cleaned up by responsible parties and the site protected as natural open space. Protection will benefit all who live around the site and downstream.

East Whiteland Township officials and the community depend on the good information and expertise of agency officials and other public resources to understand the issues and to inform the decisions they will need to make. Given that East Whiteland Township and the community are being asked to review the new development proposal for the Bishop Tube site, and that there is a great deal of technical information to be assessed, it would be prudent to secure additional input and technical reviews that can help the township reach an informed decision. The EPA has technical expertise that could be helpful to the township, so we are asking that EPA review the most recent development proposal and associated information regarding site conditions, potential remediation, the timing of development despite the lack of a draft or final remediation plan and associated data, and provide comments to the township Board of Supervisors and the community that can assist us in our review.

With appreciation and regards for your consideration of this request,

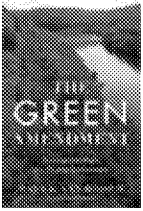
Maya

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

Author of The Green Amendment, Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment. Order at:

<http://bit.ly/TheGreenAmendment>

Or here:



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